

# Volunteer Vision

Monthly Newsletter of the City of Eau Claire Volunteers

Teri-Gene Conlin, Volunteer Coordinator Teri-Gene.Conlin@eauclairewi.gov 715-839-8285

February 2015 Edition

### Coordinator's Corner

I am excited at the response I have received for Operation Blanket Eau Claire. I already have several individuals, as well as some groups, who have volunteered to create blankets for this community service project Remember, these blankets will be distributed on October 24, 2015, Make A Difference Day Eau Claire, so it's not too late to volunteer. We would welcome donations of yarn and fleece too. Please contact me if you are interested in joining in.

We are gearing up for our spring community events. These events are important to our City of Eau Claire and we need groups and individuals to volunteer. Please take a look at your calendar and see if you are able to join the fun. If you find you are available, please contact me.

Thank you for giving your time and talent to our community!

Sincerely, Teri-Gene Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

#### **Spring Community Service Events**

Amazing Eau Claire Cleanup
Saturday, April 25
Hands On Eau Claire-Boulevard Cleanup
Saturday, May 16
Adopt-A-Trail
April thru August
Gather Round the Gardens (flower bed maintenance in our parks)
May thru October
Operation Blanket Eau Claire
Spring thru October



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# Volunteer Greeters Program Chippewa Valley Regional Airport

The Chippewa Valley Regional
Airport is looking for friendly and
energetic senior volunteers for the
Volunteer Greeter Program.
Volunteers would assist the airport's
customers with any questions or
concerns they may have, and also
greet them as they arrive.
Volunteers will be needed for a few

Volunteers will be needed for a few hours each afternoon, and can choose to participate as much or as little as they like. Please contact the airport office at 715-839-6241 or send an email to

admin@chippewavalleyairport.com for more information. Please visit their web page at <a href="http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/departments/departments-a-k/airport/services-facilities/volunteer-greeter-program">http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/departments/departments-a-k/airport/services-facilities/volunteer-greeter-program</a>.

# City of Eau Claire Volunteer Webpage

We are pleased to announce an updated volunteer webpage on the City of Eau Claire website. You will find many of the volunteer opportunities there, under Parks. www.eauclairewi.gov/volunteer

While there, you can fill out a volunteer interest form. Just "click" Volunteer Interest Form. This will take you directly to the page. It doesn't take very long at all to complete the form. Just fill in the information and submit. You are not locked into a specific date or time to volunteer. You are just giving us the ability to send you the opportunities available.





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# Thinking of becoming a volunteer? Here is a list of reasons that will help you make up your mind.

#### #10: It's good for you.

Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards. It:

- Reduces stress: Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.
- Makes you healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.

#### #9: It saves resources.

Volunteering provides valuable community services so more money can be spent on local improvements.

• The estimated value of a volunteer's time is \$15.39 per hour.

#### #8: Volunteers gain professional experience.

You can test out a career.

#### #7: It brings people together.

As a volunteer you assist in:

- Uniting people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal
- Building camaraderie and teamwork

#### #6: It promotes personal growth and selfesteem.

Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy.

### **#5: Volunteering strengthens your community.** As a volunteer you help:

- Support families (daycare and eldercare)Improve schools (tutoring, literacy)
- Support youth (mentoring and after-school programs)
- Beautify the community (beach and park cleanups)

#### #4: You learn a lot.

Volunteers learn things like these:

- Self: Volunteers discover hidden talents that may change your view on your self- worth.
- Government: Through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operation of our government.
- Community: Volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs.

#### #3: You get a chance to give back.

People like to support community resources that they use themselves or that benefit people they care about.

### #2: Volunteering encourages civic responsibility.

Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and the people who live in it.

#### #1: You make a difference.

Every person counts!

\*Borrowed from Univ. of California San Diego website